



Pandaw River Expeditions

EXPEDITION No 2

THE GOLDEN LAND

10 NIGHTS

This is a very different Burma cruise. Sailing through the heart of 'Middle Myanmar' we pass through a varying landscape – from the lush teak plantations around Prome to the desert country south of Pagan. We visit a number of small villages and towns and see local agriculture and manufacturing at first hand. These places are remote from the modern world and offer a glimpse of a timeless, lost Myanmar far from the usual tourist track. We also visit a number of old monasteries and temples of art historical interest in this the cultural heartland of old Myanmar.

Cruise Price Includes: Coach transfer Yangon-Prome (for upstream itinerary only, no bus transfer needed for downstream itinerary), entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

All Other Dates

DAY 1

PROME (PYAY)

We reach Prome by the afternoon and travel by coach to the 5th-8th century archaeological site of Thiri-ya-kittiya, the former centre of the Pyu civilization with a fascinating museum of early Buddhist artifacts and sculptures.

[MORE ABOUT PROME \(PYAY\)](#)

DAY 2

THAYETMYO

This pleasant colonial town once guarded the border between Royal Myanmar and British Myanmar following the 2nd Anglo Myanmar War of 1855. Many of the buildings including the covered market date from this period. Thayet also boasts the oldest golf course in Myanmar (1885). We visit the market, see the colonial houses and ride out by horse cart to the golf course, passing through the former British botanical garden.

[MORE ABOUT THAYETMYO](#)

DAY 3**MAGWE**

Minhla - We visit the two Italian built forts constructed to keep the British at bay from Royal Myanmar. The fight for the Minhla redoubt was the only serious action in the war and the death of a young subaltern inspired Kipling to write a poem. We ride Trishaws to reach the magnificent Magwe Myat-thalon Pagoda, constructed with solid gold bricks. Of interest are the many nat shrines and hermitages within the temple precincts.

[MORE ABOUT MAGWE](#)

DAY 4**SALE**

Here we visit the Yout-saun-kyaung monastery with its spectacular wood carvings; we also explore an area of splendid colonial-style houses and continue sailing upstream.

[MORE ABOUT SALE](#)

DAY 5**TAN-CHI-TAUNG**

In the morning, moor at the Tan-Chi-Taung mountain and enjoy the view. Continue with one of the highlights of your trip with a tour of a selection of the 3,000 listed monuments at this World Heritage Site, Pagan.

DAY 6**PAGAN**

Further exploration by coach of the monuments follow by a lacquerware workshop and visit to the local markets. Sail in the noon to upstream. Evening walk at Oh Ne Kyaung village to see the local life in this typical river side community..

[MORE ABOUT PAGAN](#)

DAY 7**YANDABO**

This small rural village is specialized in pot making. We visit the Pandaw School, built with past donations from Pandaw passengers.

[MORE ABOUT YANDABO](#)

DAY 8**MANDALAY, SAGAING AND AMARAPURA**

Guests will take a tour of central Mandalay visiting the Mahamuni Pagoda and Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung teak carved monastery. In the afternoon we visit Sagaing. The true delight of Sagaing lies in its 1000 hermitages and sanctuaries, rich in woodcarving and religious art. Next we explore the ancient capital of Amarapura by coach, take a boat ride along Taungthaman lake and watch the tranquillity and serenity of this beautiful lake and its famous U-Bein Bridge at sunset.

[MORE ABOUT AMARAPURA](#)

DAY 9**MINGUN**

We stop at Mingun to see the largest working bell in the world and the unfinished pagoda which is the largest single mass of brick building in the world. We also visit the Mingun Old Peoples Home originally established with the assistance of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company in the 1930s.

[MORE ABOUT MINGUN](#)

DAY 10**KYAUK-MYOUNG**

Visit the spectacular potteries near Kyauk-myounng where the famous 50 gallon water pots are handmade. We see all stages of manufacture from the throwing of the pots to the week-long firing in huge kilns. Afternoon cruise back downstream to Mandalay.

[MORE ABOUT KYAUK-MYOUNG](#)

DAY 11**MANDALAY**

Disembark at Mandalay.

[MORE ABOUT MANDALAY](#)

STATEROOM

The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are very spacious at 168 square feet (15.6 sqm). Much loved by all our passengers we have ensured that with each ship we build the stateroom remains the same. Our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet or phones. Pandaw passengers usually want to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.

Many passengers describe life on board a Pandaw more like being a guest on a private motor yacht than a cruise ship. Where we go and what we see is intrepid in extreme. What you come back to is a floating base of discreet comfort, caring service and all the good things one looks for in life. All our cabins have the same size and Pandaw signature amenities. Choose from Main Deck, Upper Deck or Premium Upper Deck (Mekong only).

Special to Your Stateroom

- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN YANGON

Transfer to hotel in Rangoon. Afternoon excursion to Shwedagon Pagoda.

DAY 2

DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Transfer to the jetty or airport.



5 STAR

IRRA Pre cruise Rangoon

Well located in the center of Yangon and yet only 10 minutes drive from Shwedagon Pagoda, the elegant Sule Shangri-La Hotel is the perfect base for your pre or post stay in Yangon.

Rates include:

One night at specified hotel or similar, including breakfast, service and taxes; transfers to / from airport and a guide-led excursion to Shwedagon Pagoda.

Rates exclude:

Domestic Flight, Lunch and dinner which are at your own arrangement in the hotel or in one of the many nearby restaurants.

Public facilities include

2 restaurants, a lounge, bar, pool, free and fast WI-FI and gift shop. The spacious, air-conditioned and comfortable deluxe rooms include private bathroom with bathtub, satellite TV, mini-bar, hair dryer, iron, safe, writing desk and tea/coffee making facilities.

Note

- Please advise arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

SULE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, YANGON

223 Sule Pagoda Road

GPO Box 888

Yangon

Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 242 828

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

YANGON - KINPUN - MAWLAMYINE

Depart Yangon early this morning for a journey by road to Kinpun.

Along the way, we'll visit Htaukkyant Allied War Cemetery. This beautifully-landscaped, peaceful area is the final resting place for more than 27,000 Allied soldiers who perished during the World War II campaign in Myanmar.

We will arrive in Kinpun in the afternoon. As we approach the town, the mountains surrounding the area will slowly come into view. This is where the famous Golden Rock is located. It is a huge boulder covered by gold leaf and delicately balanced on the edge of a cliff, Golden Rock is one of Myanmar's most important pilgrimage sites. Visit the pagoda here which is said to hold a hair of the Buddha, and Buddhists from across the country come here to pay homage.

Continue the journey to Mawlamyine.

Overnight in Mawlamyine, lunch included.

DAY 2

MAWLAMYINE - THANBYUZAYAT - MAWLAMYINE

After breakfast, head south to Thanbyuzayat to visit Thanbyuzayat Cemetery, where more than 3,000 allied service men are buried. Take a look at the western terminus of the Thailand-Burma Railway linking up with the pre-war coastal railway between Ye and Yangon.

Then, return to Mawlamyine and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch we'll begin our tour of the city of Mawlamyine (Moulmein). Before it was established in Rangoon, Mawlamyine was the British capital of Burma. The British influence can be seen in the buildings, churches, and the beautiful Strand road along the river.

We'll start our tour at Kyaik Than Lan Pagoda, the city's landmark. Built in 875 AD, it enshrines the Tripitaka Buddhist manuscripts as well as a hair relic from the Buddha. The 40 meter high stupa is located on a hill surrounded by 34 smaller Zediyan pagodas. From up here one can enjoy panoramic views over the city and harbor. It is also thought to be the site where Rudyard Kipling wrote his famous poem, Mandalay.

Next you will visit the ancient Queen Sein Don Monastery (locally known as Yada Bonmyint Monastery). This Monastery is more as 100 years old and is famous for its intricate woodcarving and Burmese crafts inside. It was founded by Queen Sein Tone who had to flee Mandalay at the time that Myanmar's last monarch, King Thibaw Min, took power. She became home sick and asked the local carpenters to build a monastery in the replica style of her former palace.

On our last stop, we'll visit some of the building remaining from Mawlamyine's Colonial period. Included will be a stop at Holy Family Cathedral. Built during the colonial era, this church has a beautiful interior rarely seen by tourists. We'll also stop at nearby Judson's Church, built in 1827 by Dr. Judson who translated the Bible into Burmese.

Overnight in Mawlamyine, breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 3

MAWLAMYINE - HPA AN

Our guide will meet you at our hotel after breakfast for the drive north to Hpa An.

The first stop on our tour will be Kawgun cave. Every conceivable inch of this cave is covered in Buddah images, many dating back to the 7th century. There is also an option to climb to the top of a large rock formation for great views. Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, you'll head toward Lumbini Gardens, where you'll see thousands (1150 to be exact) of identical Buddha statues before going to Kyauk Ka Lat. This natural rock sculpture, surrounded by a manmade lake, offers spectacular views of Mt Zwegabin and the surrounding area.

Then, visit Shwe Yin Myaw Pagoda. This pagoda is the perfect spot to watch the sun set across the Thanlwin River.

Overnight in Hpa An, breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 4

HPA-AN

This morning you'll head to the morning market. Today's next stop will be Sadan Cave. This cave will bring out your inner Indiana Jones. Sadan starts off as a typical Myanmar cave, full of Buddah images and even a reclining Buddah. As we make our way to the back of the cave, a natural tunnel comes into view. Follow the row of lights through the tunnel for about 15 minutes to get to the other side. As we reach the end, a magnificent view of a hidden lake and meadow come into sight.

As an optional activity, we can stop and have tea or coffee at the tea shop at the edge of the lake. From here, you'll hire one of the local boat men to take us on a tour around the lake (client's sit on the bamboo floor of the boat as there are no seats) and through another cave accessible only by boat. (the boat is valid from Oct to Apr). Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch there is time to head back to the hotel and relax after a busy few days of sightseeing, or stay with the guide and driver to explore more of Hpa An's natural and cultural secrets.

The last stop will be a sunset visit to Bat Cave. Living up to its name, Bat Cave is home to tens of thousands of bats and located along the bank of the Thanlwin River. As the sun dips in the background, the bats come out in droves and is quite a sight.

Overnight in Hpa An, breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 5

BAGO (PEGU) – YANGON

Drive to Bago after breakfast. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

The afternoon visit in Bago begins at a local market for a short walk amongst the colourful stalls selling flowers, produce, and spices. Then visit Shwethalyaung Temple, which houses a beautiful 55-meter long reclining Buddha, and the Mon-style Shwemawdaw Pagoda. Shwemawdaw is one of the most venerated pagodas in Myanmar. At 114 meters tall, it's even taller than Shwedagon Pagoda. Afterwards, visit a local Mon village nearby for a short walk through this quiet, typical rural village that was once famous for its silk weaving.

Continue the journey to Yangon.

Overnight in Yangon, breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 6

RANGOON

This morning transfer to the airport or, transfer to the Pandaw ship for your cruise.

Breakfast included.



DISCOVER

Undiscovered Burma's South - Strand Moulmein

Burma's South is one of the most interesting and picturesque areas of the country. Since the government's permissions to visit are no longer required only since 2013, Karen & Mon states are still not touched by mass tourism. This programme will introduce you to all the major attractions of the area including, but not limited to the Golden Rock, Hpa-an caves and colonial Moulmein.

Rates include:

Accommodation in a shared twin or shared double room with daily breakfast, meals as mentioned in itinerary, English-speaking throughout guide (no guide for cruising extension to Kawthaung), porter fees at Yangon airport, all transfers and excursions with private air-conditioned vehicles, entrance fees for the visits as mentioned in the program, water and refreshing towels.

Rates exclude:

International ticket to/from Yangon, domestic flights (Please refer to the supplement table below), meals other than mentioned, Visa arrangements for Myanmar, visits not mentioned in the program, drinks and personal expenses, tips and porters at the hotels, credit card fees (4%) or bank transfer fees for non-cash payments, any other items not mentioned.

Note

- Surcharges or compulsory meals may apply for holiday periods like Christmas, New Year, Water Festival, etc.
- All itineraries are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control including, weather, road or trail conditions, tour attractions, tours and flight schedules.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN YANGON

Transfer from the jetty to the airport. Flight to Rangoon. Welcome by our representative and transfer to the hotel followed by excursion to explore the colonial 'Downtown' area.

DAY 2

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, Transfer to airport for onward flights.



5 STAR

IRRA Post cruise Rangoon

Well located in the center of Yangon and yet only 10 minutes drive from Shwedagon Pagoda, the elegant Sule Shangri-La Hotel is the perfect base for your pre or post stay in Yangon.

Rates include:

One night at specified hotel or similar, including breakfast, service and taxes; transfers to / from airport and a guide-led excursion to Downtown; one domestic flight to Yangon and transfers from ship.

Rates exclude:

Lunch and dinner which are at your own arrangement in the hotel or in one of the many nearby restaurants. Compulsory gala dinners at hotel 24DEC and 31DEC if any.

Public facilities include

2 restaurants, a lounge, bar, pool, free and fast WI-FI and gift shop. The spacious, air-conditioned and comfortable deluxe rooms include private bathroom with bathtub, satellite TV, mini-bar, hair dryer, iron, safe, writing desk and tea/coffee making facilities.

Note

- Please advice arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer

accordingly

- Check in time to hotel at 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

SULE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, YANGON

223 Sule Pagoda Road

GPO Box 888

Yangon

Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 242 828

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

HEHO - INLE LAKE

Fly from Rangoon, Mandalay or Pagan to Heho - the gateway to Inle Lake. Drive to Nyaung Shwe to board a local motorboat and enjoy the sights & sounds of the lake such as leg-rowing fishermen and plenty of artisan workshops (blacksmiths, goldsmiths silversmiths, cigarette makers etc.). Overnight at Sanctum Inle Resort.

DAY 2

INLE LAKE - INDEIN

Enjoy half a day trip to Indein - a hidden village located in the middle of the Burmese jungle and easiest accessible by boat through narrow channels. Indein is famous for its collection of hundreds years old stupas. Return to the hotel after lunch and relax.

DAY 3

INLE LAKE - HEHO

After breakfast or lunch transfer back to Heho airport for your onward flight.



DISCOVER

2 Nights Mystical Inle Lake Post Tour

Inle is one of the biggest lakes in Burma. It's famous for its stunning location between the hills of Shan State, easy access by air (domestic flights only), relatively easy access by road and an out-standing amount of attractions, which could fill a medium-long holiday. From leg-rowing

fishermen through artisans (blacksmiths, goldsmiths, silversmiths etc.) to mysterious pagodas submerged in the water in Sagar/Sankar on the quiet and wild southern part of the lake. No trip to Myanmar would be complete without visiting Inle Lake.

This programme connects well with our Southern Shan State Adventure programme (additional 2 nights) and Ngapali Beach extension as there are direct flights between Heho and Thandwe in high season.

Rates include:

All sightseeing as per itinerary, two nights at Sanctum Inle Resort (Deluxe Room or Hermitage Deluxe) with breakfast or similar, private vehicle with air condition, all sightseeing with English guide by car and boat as per itinerary, entrance fees as per programme, daily complimentary drinking water, return domestic flight to/from Heho.

Rates exclude:

International flights to/from Burma, porter fees for all transfers (airports & jetties), personal travel insurance, visa to Burma, meals (lunch/dinner), any expense of a personal nature including but not limited to drinks, laundry, camera fees, phone calls, gratuities, souvenirs, etc. Others not mentioned in the itinerary.

Public Facilities

The Sanctuary Spa, Workshop Boutique, The Refectory Restaurant, The Cloister Bar.

Note

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SANCTUM INLE RESORT

Maing Thauk Village

Inle Lake

Nyaung Shwe Township

Shan State

Burma

Tel: +95 (0) 1 860 4945 or +95 (0) 1 860 4946

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

HEHO - PINDAYA - KALAW

Fly from Rangoon, Mandalay or Pagan to Heho - the gateway to Inle Lake. Drive through rolling farmlands among the Shan Hills to Pindaya for lunch served in a traditional village house. Explore village life and visit the Pindaya Caves famous for its thousands of Buddha statues. Then proceeding to Kalaw - old British colonial hill station to see the market and old railway.

DAY 2

KALAW - GREEN HILL VALLEY ELEPHANT CAMP - KALAW

After breakfast drive to Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation to learn more about how one family created a natural retirement place for the elephants who spend all their life working in teak forests of Burma. The re-plantation part of the projects aims to plant trees in the areas previously destroyed by teakwood logging. After lunch come back to Kalaw and spend the rest of the day at leisure and self exploration of this nice little town. Overnight at Kalaw Hill Lodge.

DAY 3

KALAW - NYAUNG SHWE - INLE LAKE

After breakfast drive to Nyaung Shwe to board a local motorboat and enjoy the sights & sounds of the lake such as leg-rowing fishermen and plenty of artisan workshops (blacksmiths, goldsmiths silversmiths, cigarette makers etc.). Overnight at Sanctum Inle Resort.

DAY 4

INLE LAKE - INDEIN

Enjoy half a day trip to Indein - a hidden village located in the middle of the Burmese jungle and easiest accessible by boat through narrow channels. Indein is famous for its collection of hundreds years old stupas. Return to the hotel after lunch and relax. Overnight at Sanctum Inle Resort.

DAY 5

INLE LAKE - HEHO

After breakfast or lunch transfer back to Heho airport for your domestic flight to Yangon, Mandalay or Bagan (included), followed by transfer to hotel or ship.



DISCOVER

Mystical Inle Lake & Southern Shan State Adventure (4 nights) - Kalaw Hill Lodge

Shan State is one of the most famous regions in Burma. On this trip you will visit mesmerising Inle Lake, old British colonial hill station (Kalaw), rural Pindaya with its famous caves filled with close to 10,000 Buddha statues and Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation - one of a very few responsible and sustainable tourism projects in Burma. This programme connects well with our Ngapali Beach extension as there are direct flights from Heho to Thandwe in high season.

Rates include:

Domestic flights to/from Heho, all sightseeing as per itinerary, two nights at

Kalaw Hill Lodge with breakfast or similar, two nights at Sanctum Inle Resort with breakfast or similar, private vehicle with air condition, all sightseeing with English guide by car and boat as per itinerary, entrance fees as per programme, daily complimentary drinking water.

Rates exclude:

International flights to/from Burma, porter fees for all transfers (airports & jetties), personal travel insurance, visa to Burma, meals (lunch/dinner), any expense of a personal nature including but not limited to drinks, laundry, camera fees, phone calls, gratuities, souvenirs, etc. Others not mentioned in the itinerary.

Note

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POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

HEHO - PINDAYA - KALAW

Fly from Rangoon, Mandalay or Pagan to Heho - the gateway to Inle Lake. Drive through rolling farmlands among the Shan Hills to Pindaya for lunch served in a traditional village house. Explore village life and visit the Pindaya Caves famous for its thousands of Buddha statues. Then proceeding to Kalaw - old British colonial hill station to see the market and old railway.

DAY 2

KALAW - GREEN HILL VALLEY ELEPHANT CAMP - KALAW

After breakfast drive to Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation to learn more about how one family created a natural retirement place for the elephants who spend all their life working in teak forests of Burma. The re-plantation part of the project aims to plant trees in the areas previously destroyed by teakwood logging. After lunch come back to Kalaw and spend the rest of the day at leisure and self exploration of this nice little town. Overnight at the Kalaw Hill Lodge.

DAY 3

KALAW - HEHO

After breakfast or lunch transfer back to Heho airport for your domestic flight to Yangon, Mandalay or Bagan (included), followed by transfer to hotel or ship.



DISCOVER

2 Nights Southern Shan State Adventure - Kalaw Hill Lodge

Shan State is one of the most famous regions in Burma. While it's southern part is most famous for amazing Inle Lake, relatively easy access by road and an outstanding amount of attractions could fill a medium-long holiday. Southern Shan State Adventure will take you to Kalaw, Pindaya and Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp with Re-Plantation. This trip goes very well with our Mystical Inle Lake programme (additional 2 nights) and Ngapali Beach extension as there are direct flights between Heho and Thandwe in high season.

Rates include:

Accommodation including breakfast at the hotel as specified, Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp (Program A) including a lunch, domestic flight tickets to/from Heho including airport tax, sightseeing tour and transfer service with private air conditioned car, english speaking stationed guides service, entrance fees for Pindaya sightseeing, service charges and room tax.

Rates exclude:

Meals not mentioned above, compulsory Gala dinners (X'mas Eve Dinner on 24th Dec & New Year's Eve Dinner on 31st Dec) *To be added separately when the booking is confirmed*, services not mentioned in our itinerary, visa fees, international flight tickets to/from Myanmar, expenditure of personal

nature such as drinks, tips, souvenirs, laundry, etc, travel insurance (cover against all cancellation costs, medical expenses, including repatriation, in the event of accident or illness)

Note

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KALAW HILL LODGE

11 Quarter

Nanthe' Village

Kalaw.

Tel: +81 50865/50866/50867/50868

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

Useful Links

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[General Information & Life on Board](#)

[Visa Information](#)